Development of handloom industry during eighth plan period

1737. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan has been formulated for the development of the handloom industry during the Eighth Plan period; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Although the scheme for handloom for the VIIIth plan are still under formulation stage, certain broad strategies are likely to be adopted for the VIIIth plan. Some of the ongoing schemes of VIIth Plan are likely to continue. The basic change in approach in the new schemes would be an integrated approach a suitable to weavers of a particular area, or a particular target group or for a particular products. Since the problem of weavers could vary from state to state and from region to region, one of the new approaches for some of the schemes would be based on particular needs, that would be built into the package type of the scheme. During the current year two new schemes have already been approved. The first scheme called "Margin Money for Destitute Weavers" has as target group weavers living below poverty line. The package of benefits stipulated under the scheme, include equity support at the rate of Rs. 2000/- per destitute member, with other concomitant benefits like supply of looms, training and market support. Another new scheme approved during the year 1991-92 is the "Integrated Handloom Village Development Scheme" which proposes to provide comprehensive benefits including infrastructure support to 24 selected villages that excel in handlooms. While these special package-like schemes are proposed to be introduced, Govt. is also likely to continue schemes of universal nature which had had positive impact during the VIIth Plan, with such modification as felt necessary from time to time. Such schemes include welfare Scheme like Workshed-cum-housing and Thrift Fund and other schemes like Training and Modernisation.

National Federation of State Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies

1738. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to start National Federation of State Apex Handloom Weavers Cooperative Societies on the analogy of the All India Cooperative Federations for spinning mills, sugar factories, consumers societies, for the benefit of handloom weavers in Cooperatives; and

(b) whether representations have been received by Government in this regard, if so, what action has been taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Time to time such representations have been mooted but no action has been taken because there is already in existence a National level body called Association of Corporations and Apex Societies of Handlooms.

Braso and Bel-Metal Industry in Assam

@1739. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that traditional Braso and Bel-metal industry in Hazo and Sar-

@Previously Unstarred Question 1393, transferred from the 5th December, 1991.